this purpose, the S.B.I. CAPS has been engaged as advisor for the revival purpose, who has given a programme to complete the process in 16 weeks.

Preventing private players from procurement of foodgrains

2002. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to prevent private players from procuring foodgrains from the *mandis* during the forthcoming harvesting season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a step would not preclude the farmers to derive benefit from the competition; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to restore such benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

2003. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to expand the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in tribal belts of the country; and

(b) the financial and physical progress of the Scheme during 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government, through FCI, has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and